

Subjects and Verbs A

1b. The **subject** tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

1e. The **simple predicate**, or **verb**, is the main word or word group that tells something about the subject.

1f. A **compound subject** consists of two or more subjects that are joined by a conjunction and that have the same verb.

1g. A **compound verb** consists of two or more verbs that are joined by a conjunction and that have the same subject.

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the subject once and the verb twice.

Example 1. A calculator or an abacus will help you and will speed your calculations.

1. Have you or one of your friends ever used an abacus?
2. The abacus is an ancient arithmetic tool and consists of a frame with vertical wires or slots.
3. Beads or balls may be moved up or down in the slots in various combinations.
4. In this way, the user quickly performs calculations such as addition and subtraction.
5. You and your friends can easily find more information about the abacus on the Internet.

EXERCISE B Combine each pair of sentences to create one sentence. Write the new sentence on the line provided. Then, underline the subject once and the verb twice. When you create a sentence with a compound subject, you may need to change the verb, too.

Example 1. Volleyball is a popular sport at my school. Football is also popular. _____

Volleyball and football are popular sports at my school.

- 6.** Basketball can give you a good cardiovascular workout. Track can do so, too. _____

- 7.** Blue is our school color. Gold is our other school color. _____

- 8.** When will you practice your trumpet? When will you finish your homework? _____

- 9.** Will you go to the game with Sandra's family? Will Bernard go with Sandra's family? _____

- 10.** Members of the yearbook staff take photographs at every game. Journalists on the newspaper staff take photographs at every game. _____